

U.S. Patent Appln. No.: 10/615,705
Response/Amdt. dated: 03/01/06
Office Action dated: 12/01/05

therein with different sets of numeric characters and to incorporate the handwritten reference numerals marked on the figures in the Drawings filed with the present Application.

Objections to Claims

Amendment of Claims 1, 2, and 4 is submitted herewith to spell out the meaning of the term "R(M/N)", as required by the Examiner.

Amendment of all dependent Claims is submitted herewith to correct the claim recitation "as in" to --according to--.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC Section 112

Amendment of Claims 6 and 7 is submitted herewith to correct the term "output adjustments" to the more definite term --output voltage regulator circuits --, as described in the Specification. Claim 12 is amended to insert the missing object referred to in the claim.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC Section 102 and Section 103

In the present invention as defined in main Claims 1, 5, 9, 19, and 26, at least one redundant regulator (device) circuit is used to form a non-feedback looped configuration across a plurality of power distribution lines. This is used in a redundant power distribution system where M (integer) of N (integer) distribution lines are required to be operable for the system to operate properly. The redundant regulator circuit's non-feedback looped configuration detects the operating status of the power distribution lines, and, if any are detected as malfunctioning, it adjusts the power distribution lines in a non-feedback manner so that the system continues to operate properly. Main Claims 1, 5, 9, 19, and 26 are amended so that the recitation therein recites this core novelty of the invention more clearly. The dependent Claims recite specific system and circuit embodiments.

Main Claims 1, 5, 9, 19, and 26, as amended, are now deemed to define the invention subject matter more distinctly so that it can be clearly differentiated from the prior art cited by the Examiner. In the cited Steigerwald U.S. Patent 5,073,848, the "regulator 22" in Fig. 2 is actually an

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output rectifier for rectifying the output signal from the switching device stage 17 via isolation transformer 20 (see col. 2, lines 50-52). Likewise, in the Toy U.S. Patent 6,191,500, the feeder breakers of the UPS Module do not act as a non-feedback looped circuit across the plurality of power sources. In the Cuk U.S. Patent 5,570,276, the open-loop sensing circuit (Figure 22) is used for input voltage regulation and not to switch M of N power distribution lines as required for operability of the system. None of the references contain the suggestion to combine all elements from the other references so as to obviate the invention as now more clearly defined.

All dependent Claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-18, 20-25, and 27 are deemed patentably distinct over the cited prior art for the same reasons.

Summary

The Specification, Abstract, and/or Drawings is/are corrected to address the informalities and/or indefiniteness of terms as objected to by the Examiner.

Claims 1-27 are amended to correct the informalities and/or indefiniteness of terms cited by the Examiner, and to define the invention subject matter more clearly. Clarification of the invention subject matter is submitted for purposes of advancing prosecution, and is not deemed to be a surrender of any previously recited or equivalent invention subject matter.

Please recognize the undersigned attorney and firm for prosecution matters and a change of correspondence address to the address listed below for this case. A copy of the Power of Attorney from the Assignee of record appointing the undersigned in this case is appended.

Respectfully submitted,
ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT



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AMENDMENT OF DRAWINGS (Marked-up Sheets)

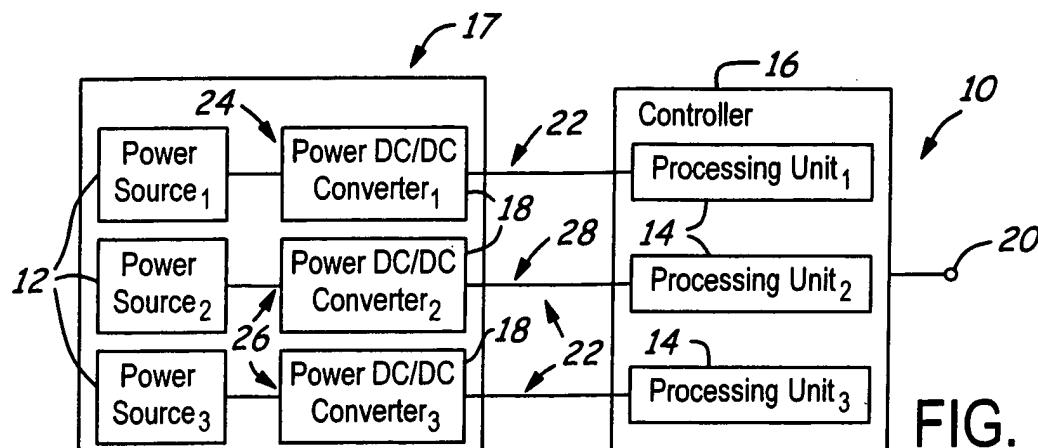


FIG. 1

PRIOR ART

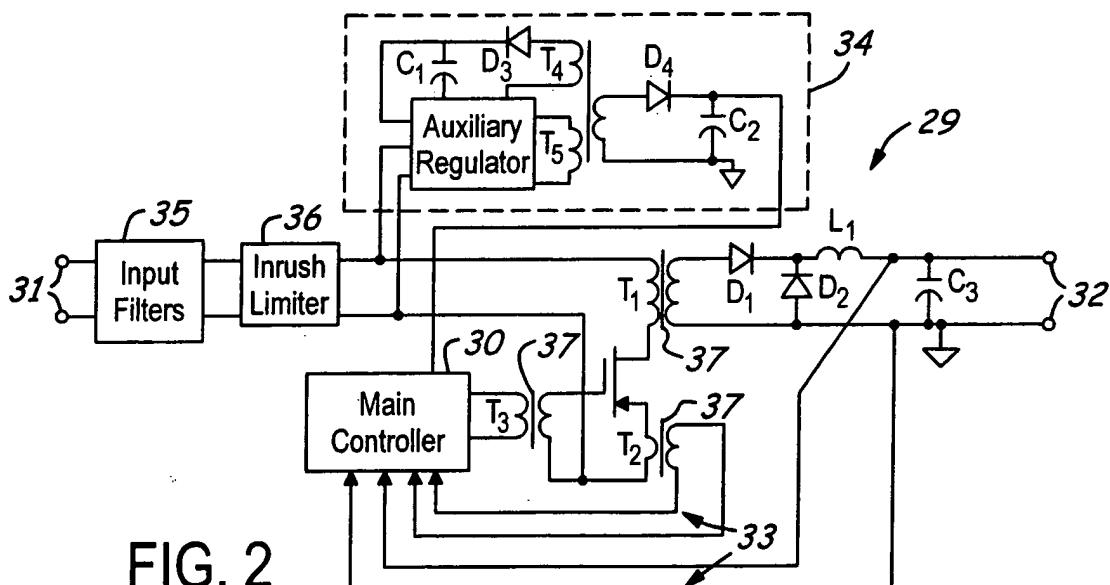


FIG. 2

PRIOR ART

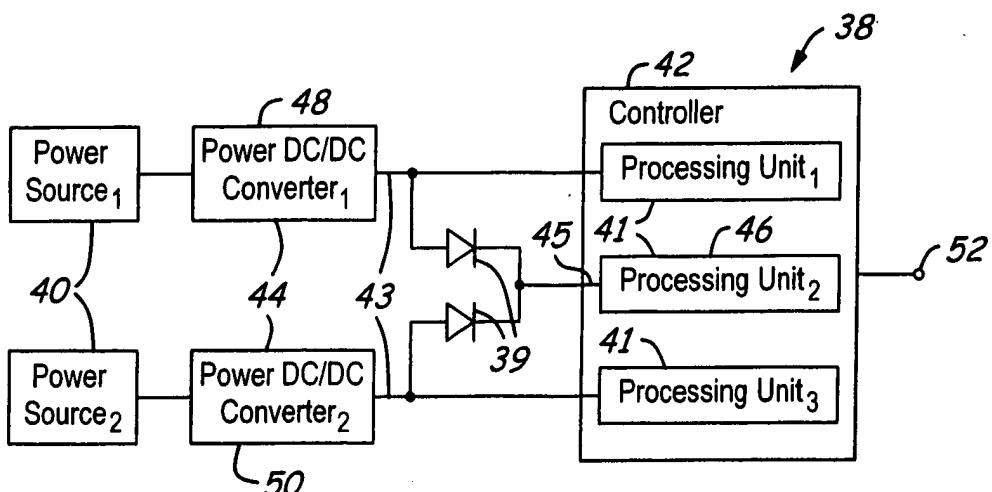


FIG. 3

PRIOR ART

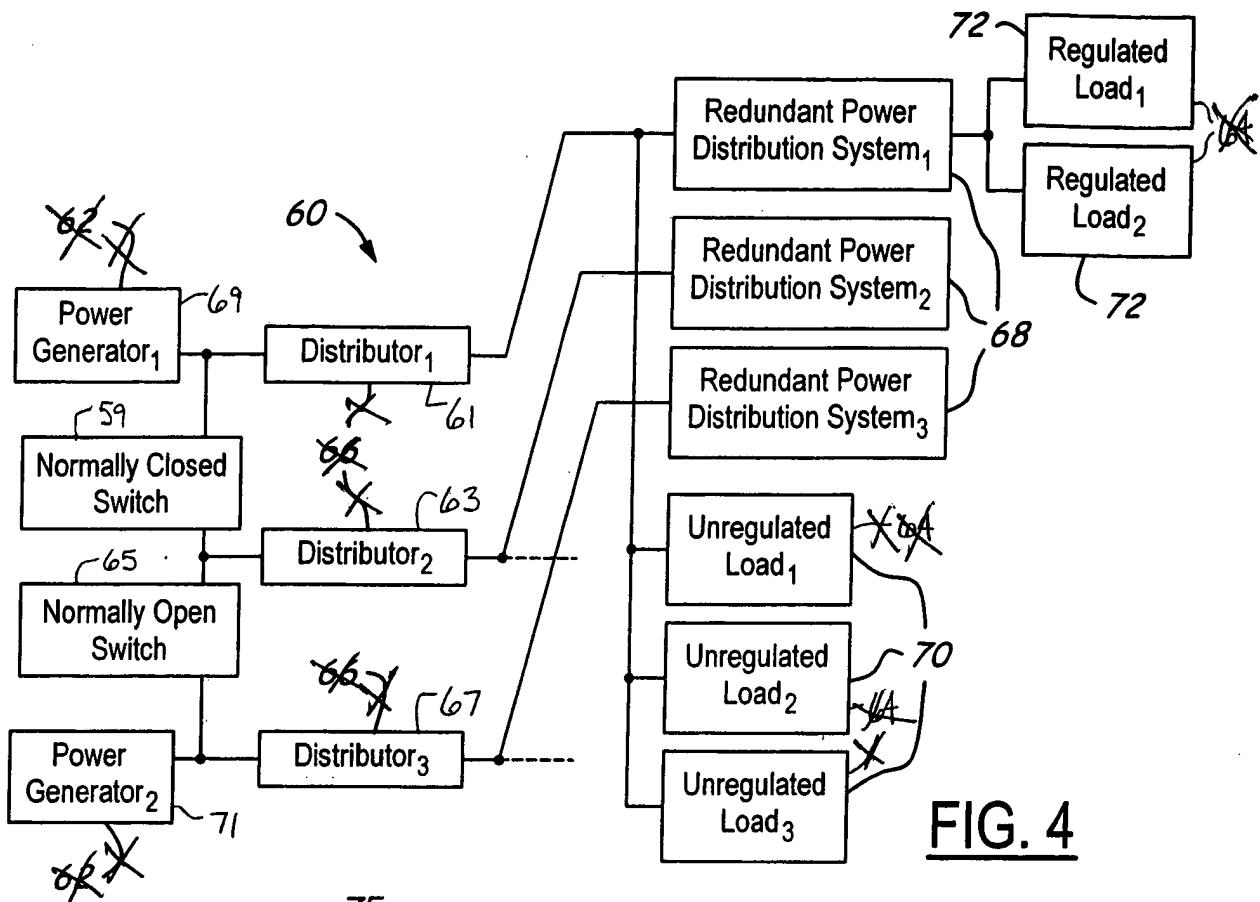


FIG. 4

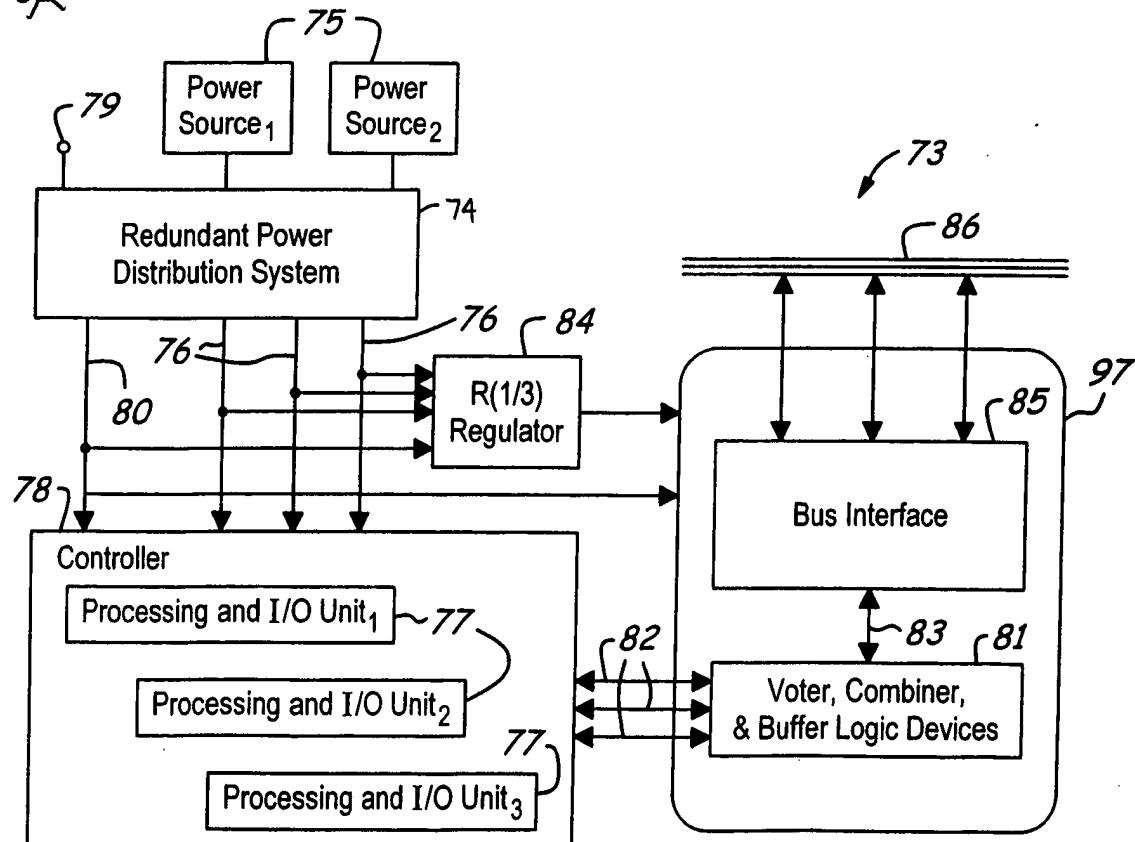


FIG. 5

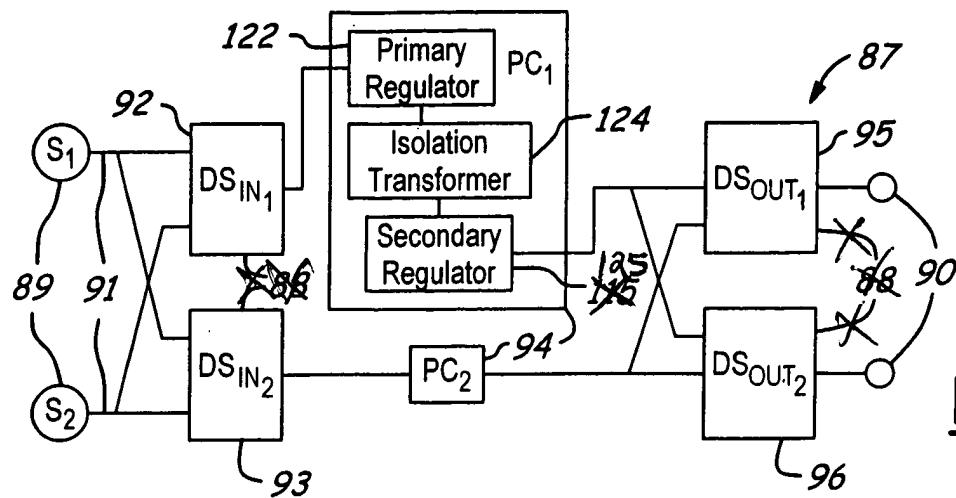


FIG. 6

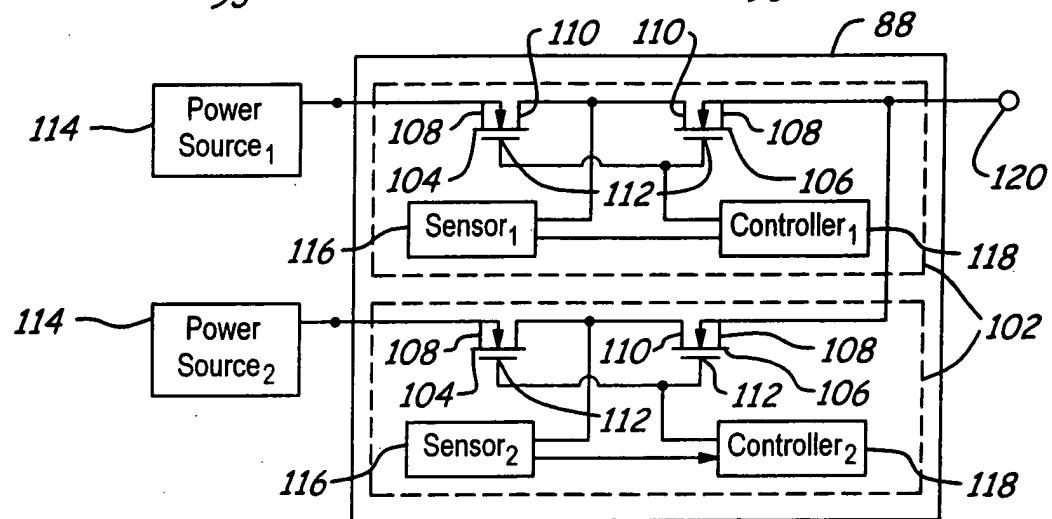


FIG. 7.

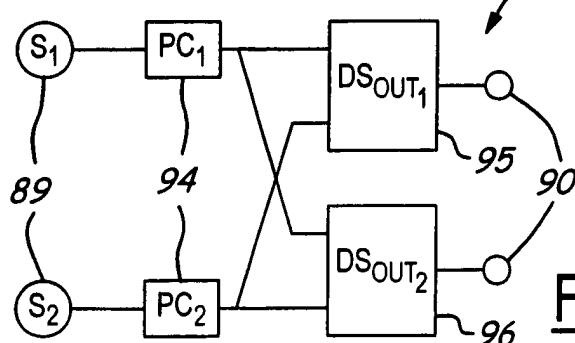
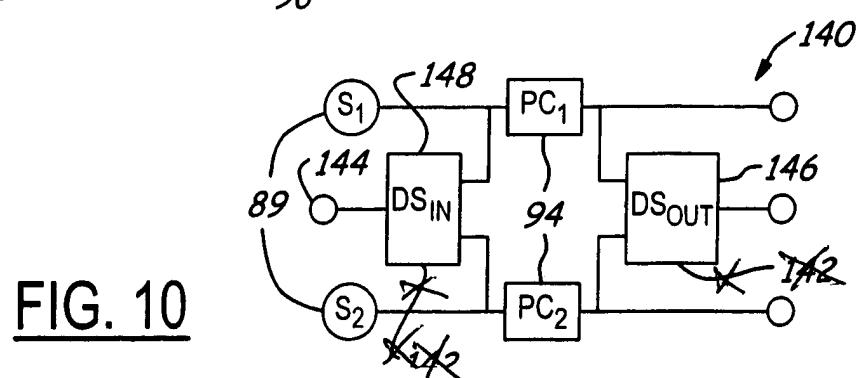


FIG. 8



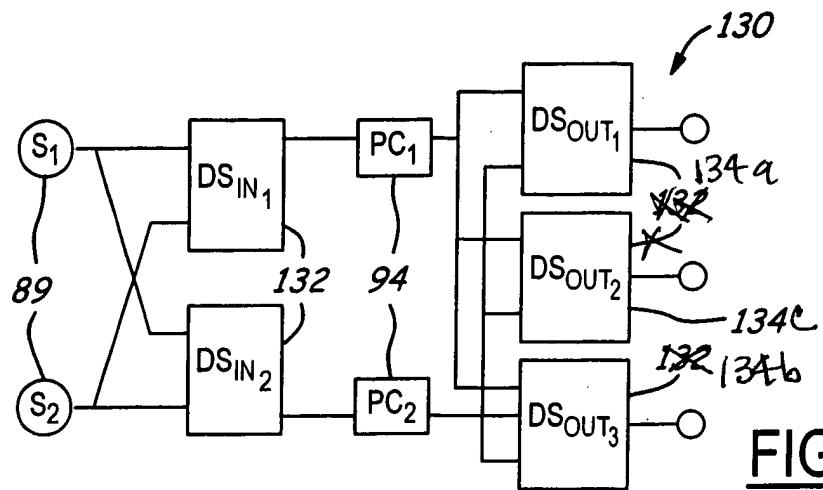


FIG. 9

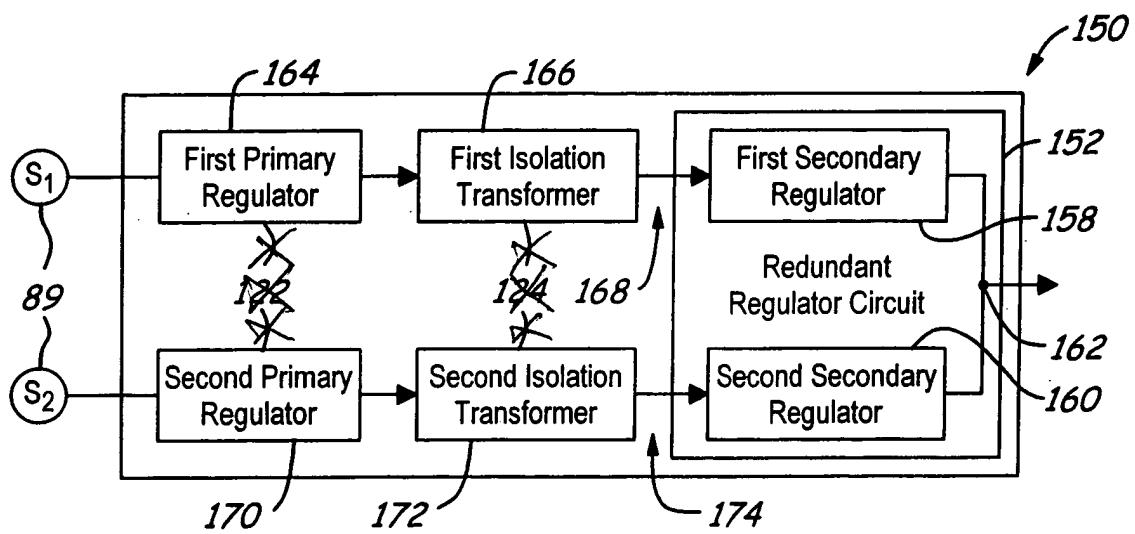


FIG. 11

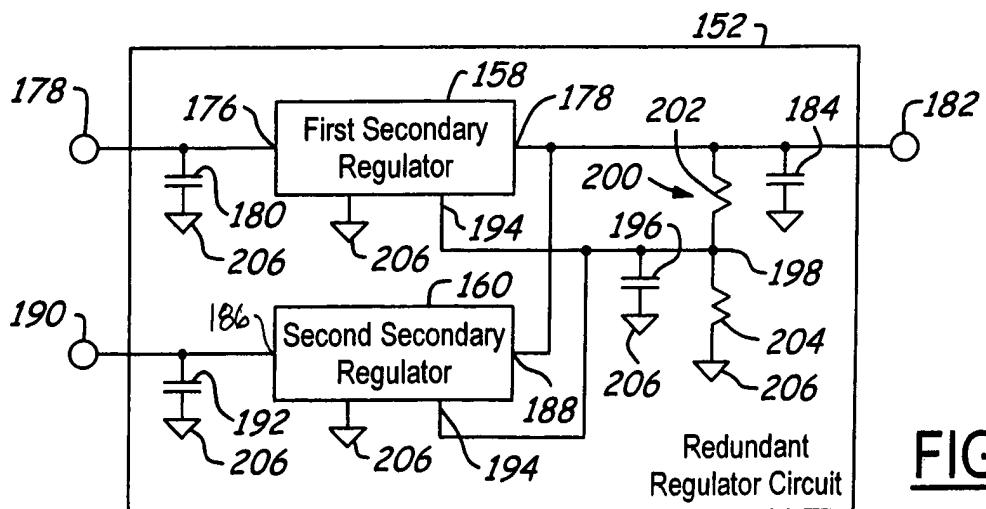


FIG. 12

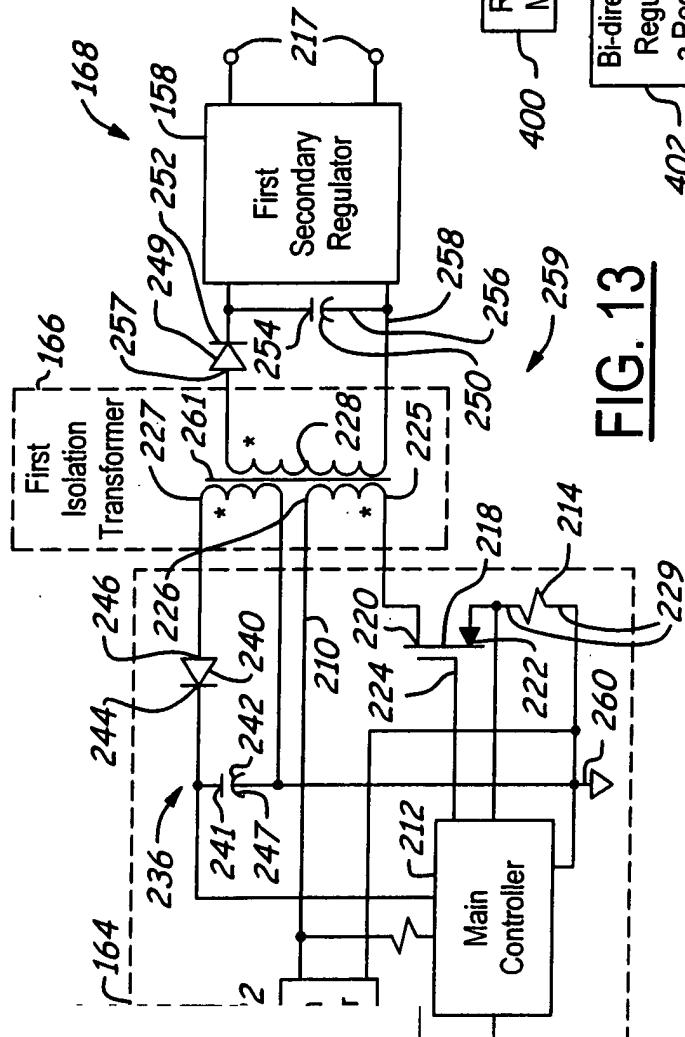


FIG. 13

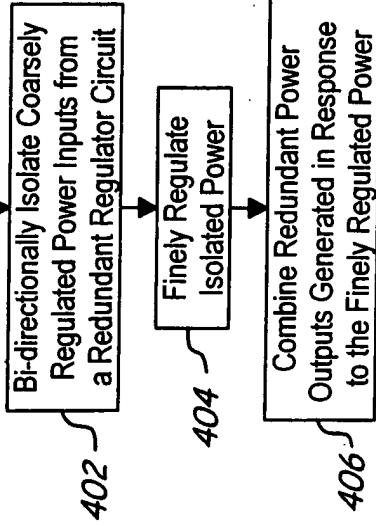


FIG. 18

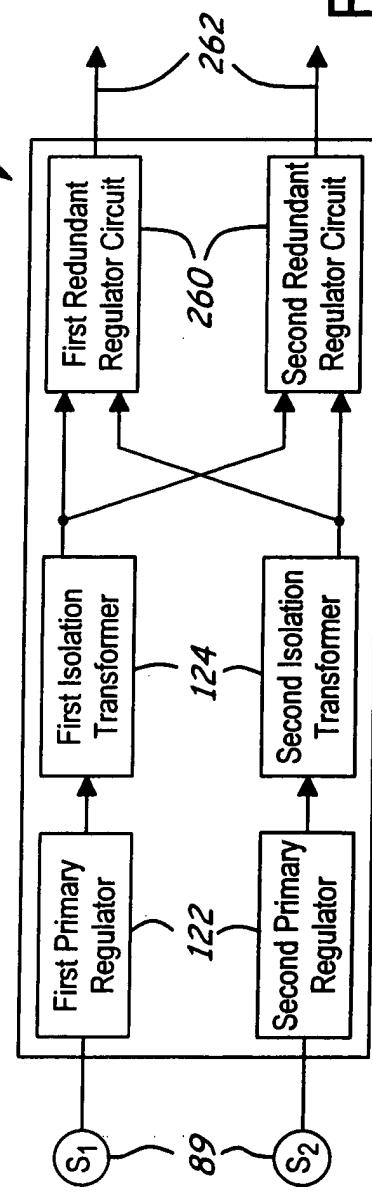


FIG. 14

sampled
by switch
(number change on)

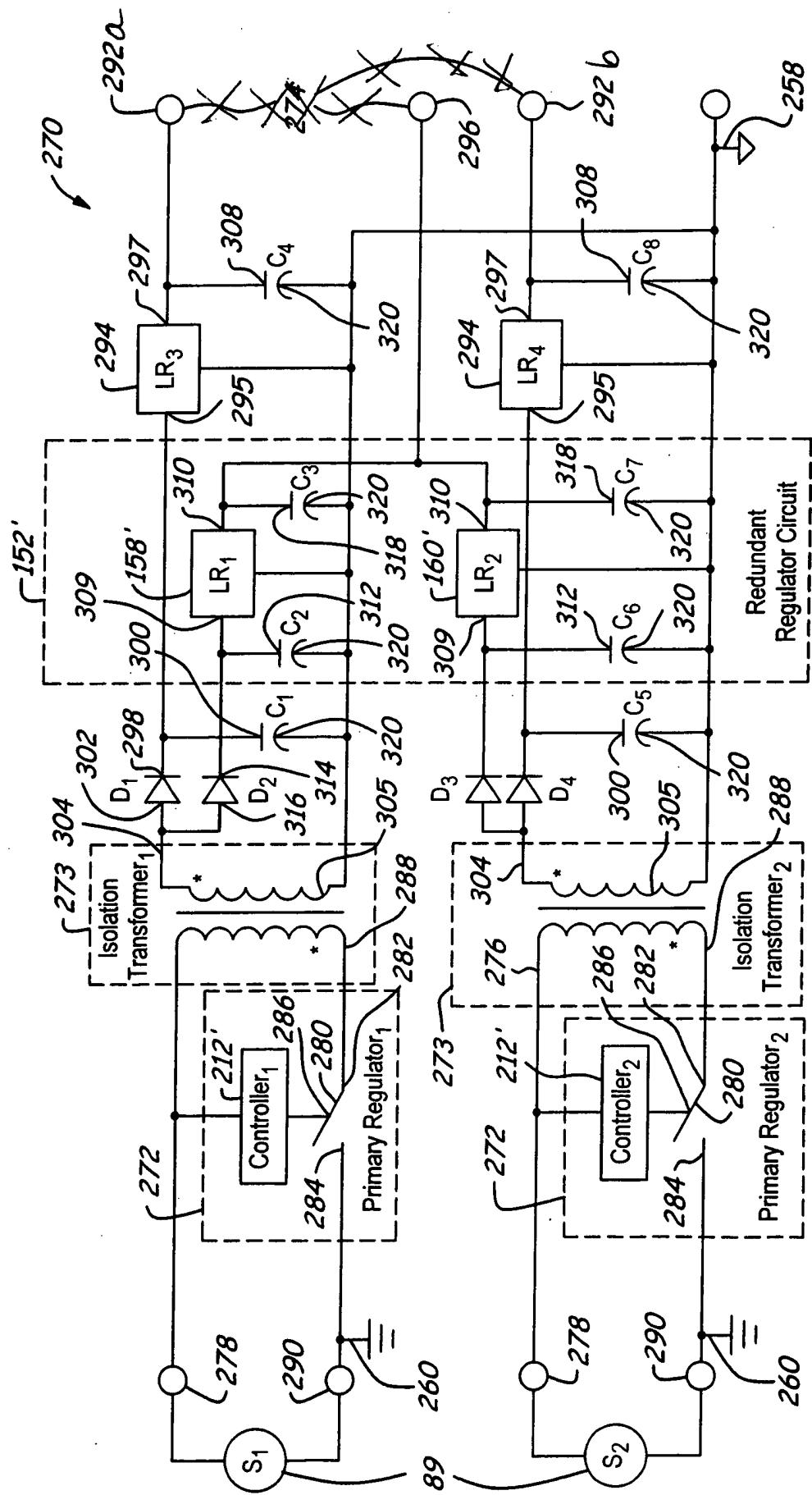


FIG. 15

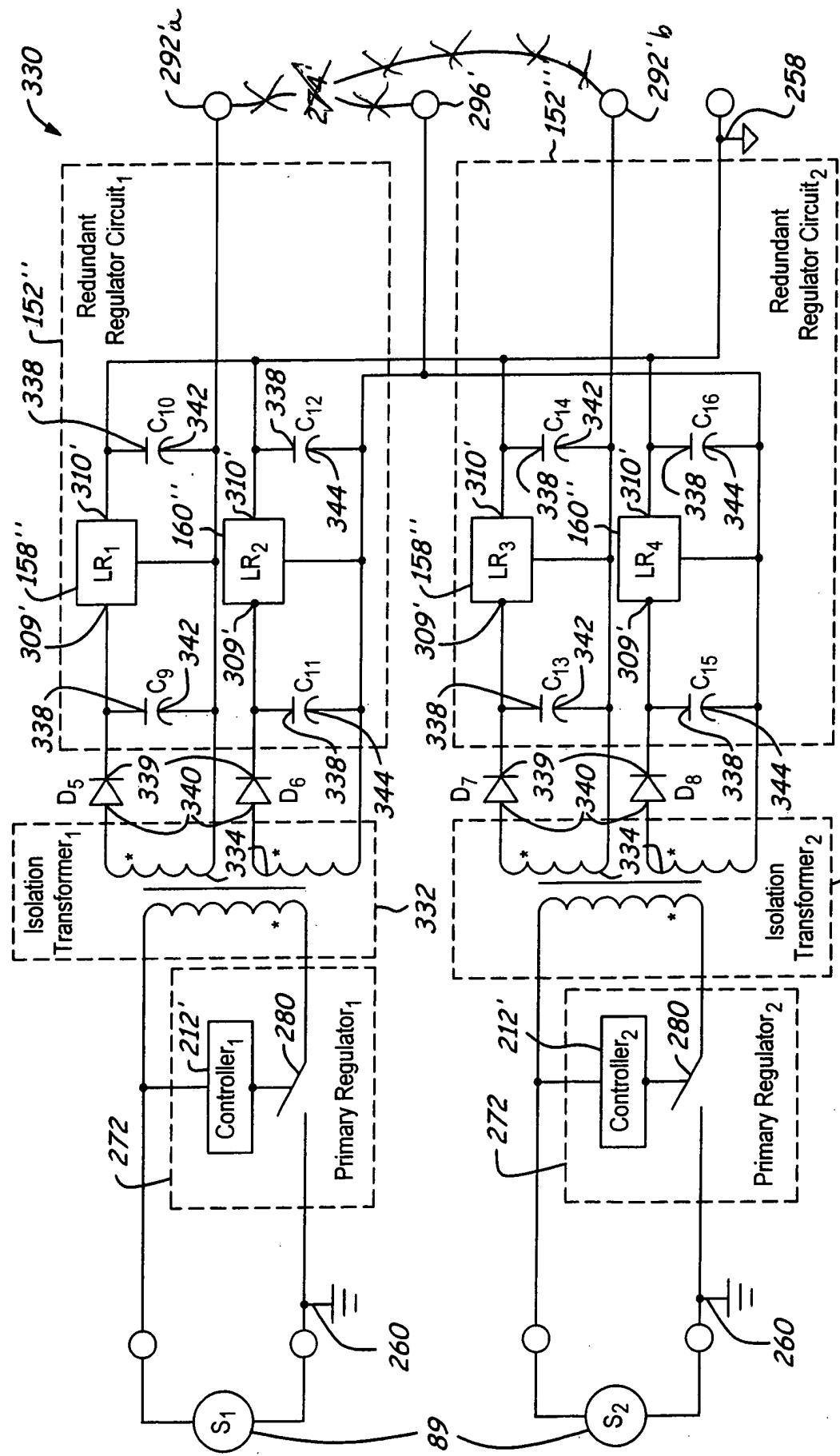


FIG. 16

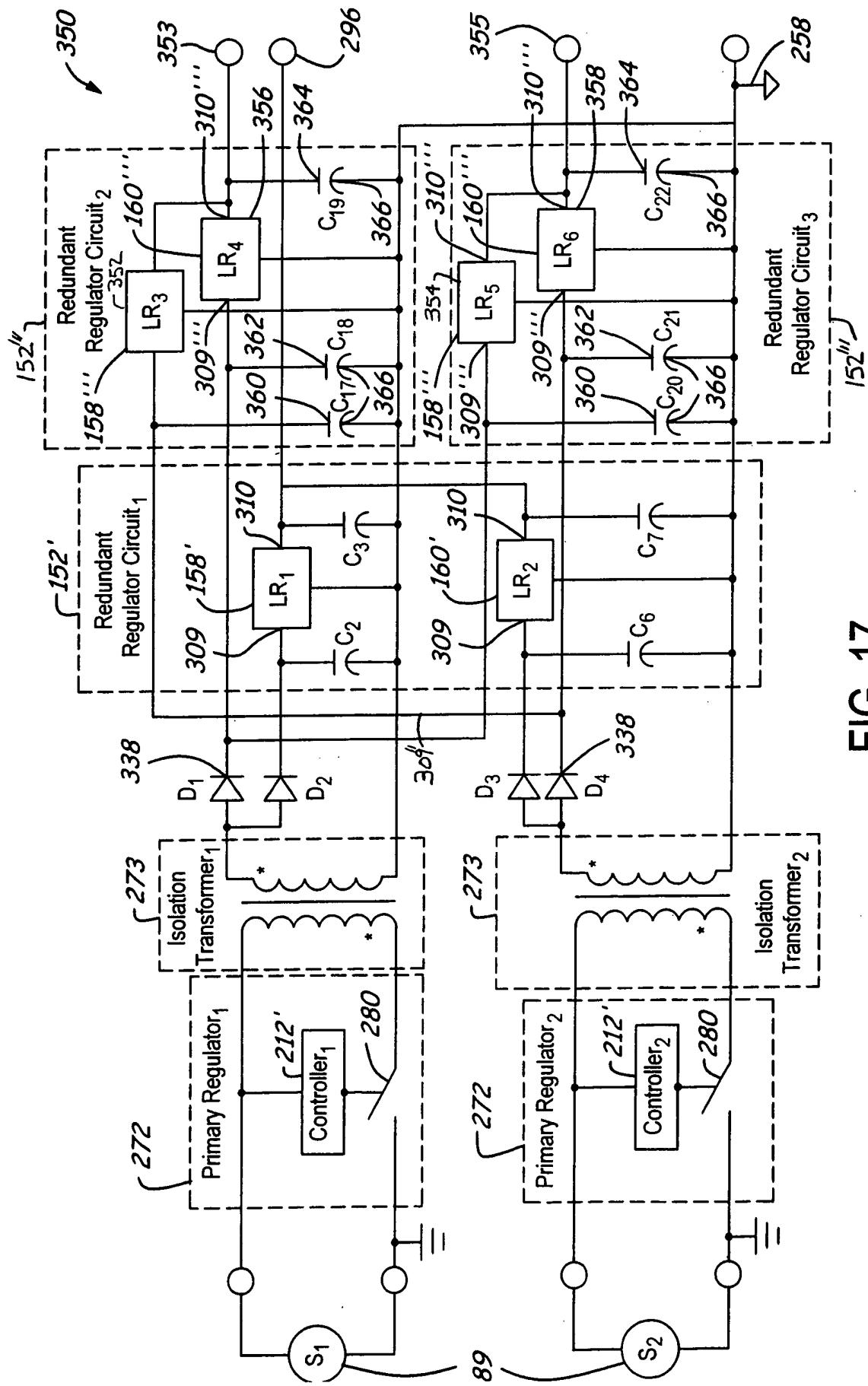


FIG. 17